

What is claimed is:

1. A voice communications method comprising:

a process at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a process at the server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a process at the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said reception result;
and

a process at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

2. A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein said process for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that received said voice data.

3. A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein:

said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and

said process for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after the transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

4. A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein :

said process for generating said reception result adds the ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and

said process for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

5. A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein said process for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on the data form of said voice data.

6. A voice communications method comprising:

a process at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a process at the server for receiving said utterance data;

a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

7. A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein said process for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

8. A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

9. A voice communications method comprising:

a process at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

10. A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation.

11. A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

12. A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a process at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

13. A voice communications method comprising:

a process at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a process at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a process at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a process at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

14. A voice communications system comprising:

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at the server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said reception result; and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

15. A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that received said voice data.

16. A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein:

said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after the transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

17. A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein :

said means for generating said reception result adds the ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

18. A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on the data form of said voice data.

19. A voice communications system comprising:

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at the server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

20. A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

21. A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

22. A voice communications system comprising:

a means at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

23. A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

24. A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

25. A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

26. A voice communications system comprising:

a means at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

27. A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at the server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said reception result;
and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

28. A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that received said voice data.

29. A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein:

said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after the transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

30. A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein :

said means for generating said reception result adds the ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

31. A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on the data form of said voice data.

32. A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at the server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

33. A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating the action of the avatar of the user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

34. A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

35. A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

36. A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

37. A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

38. A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

39. A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at the server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at the terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at the terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at the terminal that received said reception result for indicating the reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.